to take the supportive measures and policies which may help realise this, resulting from the expected expansion in world trade. The studies will be carried out by selected research institutions in the country.

(d) The Eighth Plan, has projected exports at Rs. 83,869 crores (US $ 33,548 million) by 1996-97, at 1991-92 prices.

Constitution of sub-group on drugs and medicines by India and Russia

3122. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Russia have decided to constitute a Sub-Group on drugs and medicines under the joint commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) It has been decided after bilateral consultations between India and Russia to constitute a Sub-group on Pharmaceuticals under the aegis of the Working Group on Trade and Economic Cooperation, which itself has been created under the umbrella of the Indo-Russian Joint Commission. The Sub-group would be headed by a Joint Secretary in the Commerce Ministry from the Indian side and is likely to hold its first meeting in Moscow Indian pharmaceuticals have been popular in the Russian market due to the traditional acceptance, low prices and good quality However, of late, Indian pharmaceuticals have seen increasing competition in the Russian market from Western products. Against this back-drop, the sub-group will focus on promoting the export of pharmaceuticals from India to Russia. Matters relating to the signing of an inter-Governmental MoU on special benefits and facilities for Indian drugs, Joint Ventures in the pharmaceutical sector and related issues are also likely to be discussed. Both Governments are hopeful of intensifying cooperation in the health and pharmaceutical sectors to mutual benefit, through the mechanism of the sub-group on pharmaceuticals.

Trade Fairs Organised by ITPO in Foreign Countrtes

3123 SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India Trade Promotion Organisation has organised a number of trade fairs in foreign countries during the last three financial years;

(b) if so, names of places country-wise separately during each year with total expenditure incurred during each year;

(c) whether the ITPO has made eaarning, of foreign exchange during their trade fairs in the last three financial years;

(d) if so, the details thereof country-wise and year-wise;

(e) whether this activity of I.T.P.O. has been found more profitable during the last three financil years; and

(f) if so, details of steps to be taken to increase the activity of ITPO in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes Sir, the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) have organised participation in 43 fairs during 1992-93, 42 fairs during 1993-94 and 34 fairs during 1994-95 abroad.

(b) A copy of list of the events for each of the year is enclosed at Annexure [*See* Appendix 173, Annexure No. 69]. So far as the total expenditure is concerned during these years, the ITPO have incurred Rs. 1,588.48 lakhs during 1992-93, Rs. 1,455.52 lakhs during 1993-94 and Rs. 1975.15 lakhs during 1994-95.

(c) and (d) ITPO does not trade in goods and services out is a service organisation for promoting India's trade particularly exports, and modernisation and upgradation of technologies through the medium of trade fairs and allied programmes. Mostly rental charges are received from participants in rupees. However, in some specialised fairs rentals were received in foreign exchange and some miscellaneous income was also received in foreign exchange. During the years 1992-93 and 1993-94, income received in foreign exchange was to the tune of Rs. 214.40 lakhs and Rs. 170.58 lakhs respectively. The main countries from where foreign exchange earned were Germany, Malaysia, Vietnam, Saudi Arabia, Chile, Ghana, Kuwait Namibia etc.

(e) and (f) Participation in international trade fairs and organising exclusive Indian Exhibitions abroad is not considered to be a profit making activity. ITPO undertakes these functions basically on promotional basis. However, ITPO has taken following initiatives in increasing income from such fairs and keeping expenditure under control:—

(i) Prior to 1992-93, it was usual to give about 80—90 per cent subsidy in almost all cases. Progressively the support is being provided on a selective basis taking into account the popularity of the venue of the fair and other factors. Over the past 3 years, ITPO have organised about 30 events on a purely self-financing basis.

(ii) While grant has shown declining trend, ITOP have continued to organise participation in approximately the same number of fairs abroad, as compared to the past. This has been in a large measure due to better utilisation of resources, self-financing fairs etc. Expenditure on account of deputation of ITPO teams in terms of allowances and mandays has been kept at the minimum need based level. These measures have been found commercially viable.

Earnings from imported plastics waste

3124. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether plastic waste has been imported during the last three financial years with foreign exchange spent;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such waste plastic has been re-exported during the last three financial years after recycling of this waste;

(d) if so, the earnings of foreign exchange made in each year;

(e) whether this activity has been found profitable; and

(f) if so, the details thereof with other steps to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of plastic waste imported during the last three financial years with foreign exchange spent, according to the information available with Director General, Commercial Inteligence and Statistics, (DGCIS), Calcutta are as follows:—

	Quantity (Tonnes)	Value (Rs Lakhs)
1994-95 (Upto Oct. 94)	22,020	1,310.18
1993-94	53,934	3,286.77
1992-93	20,679	1,819.74